



**FARM BUREAU
SAN DIEGO COUNTY**



Agriculture & Natural Resources
University of California

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

San Diego County

FARMERS WANTED: *Input Sought*

The **San Diego County Farm Bureau & U.C. Cooperative Extension** invite you to share your thoughts on San Diego County Farming

GET INVOLVED:

Take this opportunity to help shape the future of farming in San Diego County by attending one of these meetings:

Tues., October 11th 2005

7:00 — 9:00 pm

**Live Oak Elementary
School - Auditorium**

1978 Reche Road
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Wed., October 12th 2005

7:00 — 9:00 pm

**Ramona Community
Center**

434 Aqua Lane
Ramona, CA 92065

Thurs., October 13th 2005

7:00 — 9:00 pm

**Valley Center Middle
School -**

Multi-Purpose Room

28102 North Lake Wohlford Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082

Contact Information:

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FARMING PROGRAM PLAN

The goals of the Farming Program Plan are to promote economically viable farming in San Diego County and to create land use policies and programs that recognize the value of working farms to regional conservation efforts. The American Farmland Trust, the San Diego Farm Bureau and U.C. Cooperative Extension will be helping the County of San Diego develop the Farming Plan that will:

- * **Provide recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill**
- * **Streamline the regulatory environment for farmers**
- * **Provide economic incentives to restore, enhance, or create habitat for sensitive species**
- * **Provide recommendations for equity mechanisms, i.e. Transfer and/or Purchase of Development Rights**
- * **Support County pest exclusion and pest detection efforts designed to minimize the economic damage caused by quarantines and treatment protocols required for new and exotic pests**

San Diego is an urban county, however farming in San Diego County covers 265,041 acres and ranks 5th as a component of San Diego County's economy, 8th in counties in the state and ranks as the 12th largest farm economy among all counties in the nation. This Farming Plan will showcase the distinctiveness of San Diego County farms and will provide recommendations to promote and encourage viable farming in the County and will serve as a model for other urban counties.

Why is YOUR input important?

Throughout the entire program, decisions will be influenced by public opinion. There are many different types of solutions, each having advantages and disadvantages. **We're looking for you and other concerned citizens to be an integral part of this process.** It is important to hear your input and priorities. Only then can we collectively reach a solution that will best meet your needs and the county's needs.





American Farmland Trust

www.farmland.org

American Farmland Trust (AFT) is a private, nonprofit farmland conservation organization, that has more than 23 years of experience protecting farms and ranches. AFT was formed in 1980 by a group of farmers and conservationists concerned about the loss of farmland to development. AFT works with land use planners, the farming community, elected officials, land trusts and others to build support for the protection of productive land. They also help create effective strategies for making farming and ranching economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

AFT Experience:

- ♦ AFT developed an agricultural and farmland protection plan for Saratoga County, N.Y. The plan includes an analysis of agricultural resources, trends in the local economy and development patterns, and recommendations on how to protect the land base and support agricultural development.

Since its adoption:

- The county has hired an agricultural economic development specialist to work with farmers and allocated \$1 million to acquire easements
 - Several townships have adopted farmland protection policies
 - A town adopted a transfer of development rights ordinance
 - A town made recommendations pertaining to the future of agriculture in its master plan
 - A town identified an area for an agricultural overlay district
- ♦ In highly urbanized Lake County, Illinois, AFT quantified the economic contributions of the agricultural industry and held focus group sessions with farmers to learn how they view the future of farming in the county. Using this information, AFT developed recommendations for the future of agriculture, which the county incorporated into its land use plan.

As a result of this project, the County:

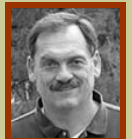
- Changed zoning and other regulations to make it easier for small farmers retailing to consumers to stay in business
- Created a farm heritage center that includes a working farm

AFT's technical resources, knowledge and extensive experience in planning for agriculture and development of purchase and/or transfer of development rights programs makes them uniquely qualified to help the County of San Diego create an effective and useful Farming Program Plan.



"These meetings on the Farming Program Plan will be a chance to set political talk aside and hear what farmers have to say about land use and what is needed to help them stay on the land." - Eric Larson, Executive Director, S.D. County Farm Bureau

"This program will let landowners hear about land use policies and programs that have worked well in other parts of the country, and explore opportunities for San Diego." - Terrell Salmon, Ph.D, County Director, U.C. Cooperative Extension San Diego County



"The County's goal is to create a Farming Program Plan that truly meets the needs of farmers and recognizes the benefits of conservation. This is an opportunity for the community to play an integral role in the efforts to protect and encourage farming in San Diego County." - Robert Copper, Deputy Chief Administrator Officer, Land Use & Environmental Group, County of San Diego

"This is an opportunity for all people with an interest in farming to come together and build a sustainable farming community in San Diego County." - Kathleen Thuner, Agricultural Commissioner, County of San Diego

